

zero. They had to break through the river's ice in order to get water to perform baptismal rites—certainly not a baptism by fire, I must say! The church became known as the "Mother Church of the World," as it was the denomination's first church in the Grand River Valley and became the parent church of offshoots in Ionia, Owosso, Detroit, North Plains and Woodard Lake, as well as financing other Disciple churches in Tennessee, Kansas and Missouri.

In 1861, the church building was completed, and Rev. Errett's longtime friend and fellow Disciple of Christ James A. Garfield, soon to become a member of this House and later to be the 20th President of the United States, traveled to Muir to dedicate the building. An elder and minister in the Disciples of Christ, Garfield had visited the church and preached there several times. Garfield was not the only House member and future president to visit the church, as then-Congressman Gerald R. Ford was on hand in 1956 to participate in the church's centennial celebration.

The First Christian Church of Muir, originally constructed at a cost of \$3,215 with boards cut at local saw mills, today rests on its original foundation and displays several stained-glass memorial windows, with the main window as a memorial to Rev. Isaac Errett. The church's bell, which was cast in England and hangs in the church's belfry, still is rung to announce services each Sunday, and also rings out on special occasions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in congratulating the First Christian Church of Muir on its 150th anniversary and send well wishes to Rev. W. Gregory Gladding and the church's congregation as they celebrate their sesquicentennial on September 7, 2006.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER  
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT  
ON S. 250, CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2006*

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report for the Perkins vocational education program.

I am pleased to see that Tech Prep was maintained as a separate authorization from the state grants program.

Tech Prep is a program of study which begins in high school, continues at a postsecondary institution and culminates in an associate degree, two-year certificate, apprenticeship, or further postsecondary study in a career and technical field.

Tech Prep in my home state of Massachusetts serves 12,865 secondary school students and 3,450 post-secondary students. One hundred and forty secondary schools, 45 post-secondary institutions and 180 business and industry members partner together to help provide a smooth transition from secondary school to post-secondary education.

These are not idle statistics but real students who may transition into high-skill, high-

wage technical fields for which there is an escalating labor market demand. These academically and technically prepared graduates of Tech Prep programs are critical to the economic growth, productivity and internal competitiveness of the United States.

Regrettably, the House bill eliminated the separate funding stream for Tech Prep programs and merged the funding into the Basic State Grant. Such a move could have led to a loss of federal funding for—and reduction of congressional focus on—this important program.

My democratic colleague RON KIND and I sought to restore and retain the integrity of Tech Prep because we—and a number of concerned education groups—feared that the language in the House version would have led to a loss of funds for Perkins overall and could have impacted existing Tech Prep partnerships and innovation in career and technical education.

I am pleased that the conference report rejects the House bill's position and maintains Tech Prep as a separate title in the law.

I am also pleased that the Congress has stood up to the Administration and soundly rejected the President's proposal to eliminate vocational education.

I would like to thank Chairman MCKEON, Ranking Member MILLER, as well as Senator ENZI and Senator KENNEDY for their cooperative work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill before us today. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage.

HONORING ERLENE HIMES

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable individual from my congressional district. Erlene Himes, a longtime educator and librarian, recently announced her retirement as director of the Marion County Public Library. Mrs. Himes has distinguished herself as a selfless leader throughout her many years of service to the communities of Marion County and Taylor County, Kentucky.

A native of North Carolina, Mrs. Himes came to Kentucky in the early 1960s to pursue a bachelors degree in elementary education at Campbellsville College. Upon completion of her studies, Mrs. Himes taught for 2 years at the Taylor County elementary school. This was followed by 2 years working in the Campbellsville College library. Soon thereafter, she earned a masters degree in library science from Western Kentucky University and began her 28-year career with the Marion County Board of Education. During these years Mrs. Himes worked at Calvary, Raywick, Bradfordsville, Glasscock Elementary and Marion County High School libraries, leaving a special mark at each school.

While she was librarian at the Marion County High School, Mrs. Himes worked the concession stand at sports events in a successful effort to raise money to purchase the first computers for the library. She would later complete the ambitious task of cataloguing the entire high school circulation on computer.

Erlene Himes retired from the Marion County Schools in 1996, refocusing her generous spirit on volunteer projects at the Campbellsville College Bookstore and the Taylor County Food Pantry. She was called back to duty in early 2001, becoming director of the Marion County Public Library. Under Mrs. Himes leadership, the library's patronage increased significantly, Friends of the Library were revived, and the library has been the recipient of three awards from the Kentucky Department of Libraries.

On behalf of the countless men and women who have benefited from her generosity and vision, I would like to express my profound appreciation to Erlene for her years of service and wish her a very happy and healthy retirement.

It is my great privilege to recognize Erlene Himes today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for her exemplary citizenship and community engagement. Her efforts, past and present, make her an outstanding American, worthy of our collective respect and honor.

TRIBUTE TO SPC. RAYMOND  
SALERNO III OF LAND O'LAKES,  
FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who gave his life in service to our Nation.

Army Specialist Raymond Salerno III of Land O'Lakes, Florida recently passed away following an extensive battle to recover from wounds sustained during operations in Iraq. Specialist Salerno was 27 years old, and leaves behind a fiancée, a 7-month-old son, and a grieving family.

While on patrol in Iraq in October, Specialist Salerno's tank was struck by a roadside bomb, sustaining third-degree burns over much of his body. While recovering in Fort Benning, Georgia, Specialist Salerno had recovered enough to perform basic tasks like answering telephones. His death came as a shock to everyone who knew him.

A dedicated wrestler, Specialist Salerno graduated from Land O'Lakes High School in 1997. Following his high school career, he worked at Response Mail, a direct mail marketing company. Yearning to one day gain a college education, Specialist Salerno joined the Army. His dream was to potentially go to the police academy and earn a pilot's license.

Specialist Salerno leaves behind his fiancée Nerea Guerrica and their son Nikolas; parents Robin and Raymond Salerno; brothers Christopher and Joshua; and sister Camille.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Specialist Raymond Salerno III who have volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear.

While brave men and women like Ray have perished in the cause of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget their sacrifice and commitment.